

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application of)
INOUE et al.)
Application Number: To be Assigned)
Filed: Concurrently Herewith)
For: DISK ARRAY DEVICE AND MAINTENANCE)
METHOD FOR DISK ARRAY DEVICE)
Atty Docket No. WILL.0005)

**Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**

**REQUEST FOR PRIORITY
UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119
AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

Sir:

In the matter of the above-captioned application for a United States patent, notice is hereby given that the Applicant claims the priority date of December 15, 2003, the filing date of the corresponding Japanese Patent Application 2003-416230.

A certified copy of Japanese Patent Application 2003-416230 will be submitted upon receipt from Applicant. Acknowledgment of receipt of the certified copy is respectfully requested in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344

Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200
February 2, 2004